

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7911
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, AFIN, IAEA
SUBJECT: IAEA PROGRAM AND BUDGET REVIEW

REFERENCE: VIENNA 7051

1. LOCAL GENEVA GROUP MET SEPTEMBER 7, 1978 TO DISCUSS
FURTHER THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE TO BECOME MORE CLOSELY
INVOLVED IN THE IAEA'S PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY PROCESS,
PARTICULARLY AIMED AT THIS STAGE AT THE 1980 BUDGET.
WE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED BY DDG HALL THAT THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL WELCOMED THE GG INITIATIVE AND WAS
PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.

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2. THE U.S. REP FIRST BROUGHT THE ENTIRE GROUP UP TO
DATE ON THE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS REPORTED REFTTEL,
AFTER WHICH THERE WAS AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AND
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A. THE GROUP IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO BECOME INVOLVED
EARLIER IN THE AGENCY'S PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY PROCESS

WITH A VIEW TO INFLUENCING PROGRAM PREPARATION AND THE LEVEL OF THE BUDGET TO BE PROPOSED.

B. THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE A BRIEF PAPER SHOWING THE MAIN PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY TRENDS FROM 1979 TO 1980. HOPEFULLY SUCH A PAPER, WHICH COULD BE IN THE FORM OF AN INTERNAL GUIDELINES PAPER BUT MADE AVAILABLE TO "INTERESTED MEMBER STATES", COULD BE AVAILABLE IN OC.

C. THE GROUP WILL BE SPLIT INTO SEVERAL SMALL SUB-GROUPS TO FOCUS ON DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE AGENCY'S PROGRAM AND BUDGET. THEY WILL ENGAGE IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE SECRETARIAT STAFF MEMBERS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DETAILS OF VARIOUS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND HOPEFULLY TO BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE ECONOMIES MIGHT BE ACHIEVED, EITHER THROUGH POSTPONEMENT OR CURTAILMENT OF LOW PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.

D. THE SUB-GROUPS WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY REPORT BACK TO THE ENTIRE GG. TOWARD THE END OF NOVEMBER THE GG WOULD ATTEMPT TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON THE PROPER BUDGET LEVEL FOR 1980 IN GENERAL TERMS AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY, IF POSSIBLE, LOW PRIORITY ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT BE DEFERRED, ELIMINATED OR GRADUALLY PHASED OUT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GG'S VIEWS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARIAT, WITH THE AIM OF HAVING THE SECRETARIAT SHAPE ITS BUDGET PROPOSALS ACCORDINGLY.

E. THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD MEET AS USUAL IN DECEMBER TO REVIEW THE SECRETARIAT'S SUGGESTED PROGRAM CONTENT AND PROVIDE ITS ADVICE TO THE DG.

F. THE DG WOULD BE URGED TO INFORM THE FEBRUARY BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE GENERAL BUDGET LEVEL FOR 1980 WHICH HE INTENDS TO PROPOSE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. AT THIS STAGE, THE DG WILL HAVE HAD THE BENEFIT OF GG INPUTS AS WELL AS THE VIEWS OF SAC. HE WOULD BE "TESTING THE WATERS" BEFORE HIS PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY PROPOSALS BECOME LOCKED UP. THE EXTENT TO WHICH ADDITIONAL CHANGES (IF ANY) ARE MADE BEFORE PRESENTING HIS PROPOSALS TO THE A AND B COMMITTEE WOULD DEPEND ON HIS JUDGMENT OF REACTIONS AT THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING. THE GG FELT THAT THE BOARD SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ASKED TO APPROVE A BUDGET FIGURE IN FEBRUARY, EVEN IN GENERAL TERMS. THE FEBRUARY BOARD WOULD BE,

RATHER, A TIME FOR MEMBE THE BOARD TO OFFER
COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE TO THE DG PRIOR TO THE TIME HE
MOVES AHEAD WITH HIS FORMED PROPOSALS FOR THE A AND B

COMMITTEE.

G. THE DG WILL ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT THE
PRACTICE OF PROJECTING COSTS IN CONSTANT DOLLARS FOR
A 5 YEAR PERIOD FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAM COMPONENTS.
THIS PROJECTION WOULD BE UPDATED AND CHANGED EACH
YEAR TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, INTER ALIA, THE
INFLATIONARY FACTOR OF THE PRIOR YEAR.

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H. THE U.S., U.K. AND FRG REPS WILL CALL ON THE DG
SHORTLY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS
THE DETAILS OF HOW THE GG INTENDS TO PROCEED AND TO
SEEK HIS AGREEMENT TO INSTITUTE THE MEASURES
DESCRIBED IN B, F AND G ABOVE.

3. THE LOCAL GG IS EXPECTED TO MEET AGAIN ON THIS
MATTER IN MID-OCTOBER, FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION WITH
THE DG MENTIONED IN PARA 2H ABOVE. MISSION WILL
REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. KIRK

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